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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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09/186,270 11/04/98 GANTT

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EXAMINER

WM02/1221

GATES & COOPER
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SEALEY,
ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2671
DATE MAILED:

12/21/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/186,270

Applicant(s)

GANTT, BRIAN DOYLE

Examiner

Lance W. Sealey

Art Unit

2671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,14,15,21,24,25,28,38,39,45,48-51 and 65-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5-13,16-20,22,23,26,27,29-44,46,47,52-64 and 69-81 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2671

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Change in Art Unit

1. The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 2671.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-3, 5-13, 16-20, 22-23, 26-27, 29-44, 46-47, 52-64 and 69-81 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 102(e) which forms the basis for all novelty-related rejections set forth in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless—

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1, 4, 21, 25, 28, 45, 48-51 and 65-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Venolia (U.S. Pat. No. 5,463,722).

5. Venolia, in disclosing automatic alignment of objects in two-dimensional and three-dimensional display space using an alignment field gradient, also discloses, with respect to claims 1, 25, 48 and 65, a method of operating a computer aided design system in presumptive mode, comprising the steps of:

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- moving a selected graphic object relative to a graphic pointing symbol (col.5, ll.5-8);
- determining when the selected graphic object is within a predetermined proximity of an underlying graphic object (col.5, ll.8-11);
- manipulating the selected graphic object into a geometric relationship with the underlying graphic object according to predetermined geometric rules (col.5, ll.8-11); and
- dynamically updating the geometric relationship based on movement of the graphic pointing symbol while the graphic pointing symbol remains within the predetermined proximity of the underlying graphic object (col.5, ll.8-11).

6. Concerning claims 4 and 28, Ventolia discloses positioning the selected graphic object at a predetermined offset relative to the underlying graphic object as part of the manipulating step (col.5, ll.8-11).

7. Regarding claims 21 and 45, Ventolia discloses a method of operating a computer aided design system, comprising the steps of:

- providing at least one graphic object to be selected for insertion into a graphic design (col.9, ll.30-37);
- displaying and moving a selected graphic object with a graphic cursor moved within the graphic design (col.10, ll.21-27);
- when the selected graphic object is within a predetermined proximity with respect to one or more underlying graphic objects, automatically manipulating the selected graphic object into a geometric relationship with the underlying graphic object (col.5, ll.8-11); and

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- dynamically updating the geometric relationship based on movement of the graphic cursor while the graphic cursor remains within the predetermined proximity of the underlying graphic object (col.5, ll.8-11).
8. With respect to claims 49 and 66, Ventolia discloses computer input device control of a pointing symbol (col.5, ll.5-8).
9. Concerning claims 50 and 67, Ventolia discloses the points of interest being determined by predefined rules (col.5, ll.5-8).
10. Regarding claims 51 and 68, Ventolia discloses the predefined rules limiting selection of the first graphic object (col.10, ll.21-27).
11. In view of the foregoing, it is concluded that the above claims have been anticipated by Venolia.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 14-15 and 38-39 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Venolia in view of Eckart (U.S. Pat. No. 5,408,606).

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14. Venolia does not disclose, with respect to claims 14-15 and 38-39, partially deleting only selected ones of a plurality of graphic objects corresponding to the objects' respective clip regions. However, this is disclosed by the Eckart computer graphics system at col.1, ll.26-33.

15. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time this invention was made to arrange for partial deletion of only selected ones of a plurality of graphic objects corresponding to the objects' respective clip regions. Such a combination of these two references would enhance clarity and eliminate waste by cutting away parts of objects that lie outside the viewport (Eckart, col.1, ll.31-33).

16. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Venolia in view of Rostoker et al. ("Rostoker," U.S. Pat. No. 5,623,418).

17. Ventolia does not disclose a database/file structure in its CAD system. Such a structure is disclosed by the Rostoker CAD system:

- The display device is disclosed at **1606** in FIG.29;
- The data base, the object files and the design files are disclosed at col.9., ll.27-33--the object files perform the same function as the applicants' design files; and
- The processor is disclosed at **2401** in FIG.29.

18. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time this invention was made to arrange for a database structure. Such a combination of these two references would ensure that the object simulation structures are always current and representative of the schematic diagram as displayed at a given moment (Rostoker, col.10, ll.18-

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21).

Conclusion

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Lance W. Sealey at

(703) 305-0026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Zimmerman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARK ZIMMERMAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600